

## FRICKE CONFESSION IS READ IN COURT

Admitted Knowing Wessels,  
Alias Rodiger, Plotted  
Bomb Explosions.

### EXTENUATED HIS ACTS

German Spy Talked of Import-  
ing Explosives in Statuary  
Gift to Church.

The Government showed yesterday a face card at the trial of Albert Paul Fricke, who is charged with treason. A signed confession which Fricke made to Ben A. Matthews, Assistant United States Attorney, on June 15, 1918, after saying, "I will hold nothing back," was read to the jury.

Fricke confessed to advancing money to Herman Wessels, whom he admitted he knew to have come to the United States in November, 1916, as a German agent, for the purpose of importing explosives to blow up British ships in the Atlantic. He told Wessels that he was a member of the German Naval Intelligence Bureau. He confessed to knowledge of efforts by Wessels to import explosives to blow up British ships in the Atlantic. He told Wessels that he was a member of the German Naval Intelligence Bureau. He confessed to knowledge of efforts by Wessels to import explosives to blow up British ships in the Atlantic.

Dictated Eight Days After Arrest. The statement was dictated by Fricke eight days after he had been imprisoned on an indictment charging him with conspiracy to commit espionage, a capital offense, with Jeremiah A. O'Leary, John T. Ryan, Willard Robinson and others as codefendants. He said to gain by it because the Government indicted him, charging treason, and it is on this indictment that he is being tried before Judge Mayer.

While he admitted his transactions with Wessels and Mme. de Victoria, Fricke's statement was not a bald confession of guilt in a plot against his adopted country. For everything that he did he made a defense or a plea in extenuation. He helped Wessels, he said, because Wessels had been sent to him by Adolph Richter, head of the German house of Richter & Co. for whom he was the American manager. Having assisted Wessels before the United States became a belligerent, he trailed along afterward though trying all the time to get rid of him.

Wessels is named throughout the statement as Rodiger. He entered this country with a passport identifying him as Karl Rodiger, a Swiss. He is identified as Wessels, former second officer on the Imperator, months after his arrest. Fricke said that he received a cablegram in October, 1916, informing him that Karl Rodiger, who was alleged to be connected with the Olen, Switzerland, branch of Richter & Co. was on his way to America. Rodiger arrived and called on Fricke once or twice a week during November and December. A paragraph in the statement in which Wessels described his mission follows:

"He (Rodiger) said: 'I am to investigate if it is possible to place Irish recruits on British warships for the purpose of placing bombs on the ships and I found out and reported it cannot be done and my orders are that nothing is to be undertaken directed against the United States. We want to place bombs on British freight ships leaving New York harbor and I will pay \$10,000 or \$20,000 for each ship so destroyed.'"

"I expect another man or two from the other side who are to help me make the bombs."

Could Not Get Explosives. Fricke said that Wessels asked for his aid in smuggling the raw materials for explosives into this country. The messengers from the other side had not arrived. Wessels told Fricke that he thought they had been discovered and taken from neutral steamships by the British. The Government's domestic supervision was so strict that Rodiger could not get ingredients for his bombs. Fricke said that he suggested a roundabout method of importing concealed explosives by way of the neutral branches of Richter & Co. He made the scheme complicated on purpose, he said, in the hope that Wessels would not care for it. In this he was successful. He said:

"The plan did not appeal to him (Rodiger) and it seems that due to the non-arrival of the chemicals the entire plan was abandoned, although it seems to have been revived after the arrival of Mme. de Victoria, when Rodiger once more asked me how to go about importing statuary or altar pieces from Holland as a gift for some Catholic church. When I hesitated he dropped the subject at once and jumped to another, apparently not to disclose anything unnecessarily."

After the arrival of Mme. de Victoria in January, 1917, Fricke managed a meeting with Wessels in the Kaiserhof. The alleged spies talked of unimportant things while he was with them. Fricke said: "Mme. de Victoria brought word of conditions in Germany. She said that the Kaiser was passing much time in church at prayer and that the peace party, led by the Kaiser, Von Bethmann-Hollweg and Ballin, was willing to cede Alsace-Lorraine to France."

Describing the situation when the United States became a belligerent, Fricke said:

"I asked Rodiger what he intended to do regarding registration. He said that he had registered and showed me a registration card. I had a serious talk with Rodiger and told him I should be left out of his affairs from now on. It must have been in this connection when I told him to see to it that he did not get any more mail for him. It must also have been then that he repeated that I had nothing to fear because he would undertake nothing against this country. He also said that a high judge was lined up in his work."

Fricke had little to tell regarding events during the first months of the war. He was away from New York, either ill at his home in Mount Vernon or on vacation at Liberty in the Catskills.

Wessels appeared at Liberty in August. He needed money. Fricke advanced him \$3,000. He described the loan in his confession as a foolish act. The indictment alleges it as an overt

## WHITMAN SAYS HE DIDN'T SEEK VOTE

Continued from First Page.

replied Mr. Whitman. "I had asked many of the Senators to come and see me, and only a few days before the meeting with Thompson I told George A. Glynn, chairman of the Republican State Committee, that I would be glad to see any of the Senators, and Mr. Glynn mentioned Senator Thompson as one of those who wanted to visit me."

"Did Senator Thompson tell you there was a slush fund in Albany?" Mr. Whitman was asked.

"He did not," was the reply. "He said there was heavy pressure and that they were all crooks."

### Talks of Bankruptcy.

When Mr. Quackenbush went on the witness stand he told the committee that the Interborough Rapid Transit Company would have to go into bankruptcy unless something was done to relieve the company's financial situation. Every member of the Judiciary Committee grinned broadly when Mr. Quackenbush said:

"I do not believe the Legislature should permit this idle tale of a slush fund to interfere with passage by the Senate of the Carleton-Martin bill, which has already passed the Assembly."

Mr. Whitman's law firm, Whitman, Ottinger & Ransom, received \$10,000 as a retainer from Theodore P. Shonts about April 2. Whitman expressly attested that he was in no sense to be considered a lobbyist or used to influence the votes of Senators. Later Mr. Shonts testified that he had given the money to Richard H. Burke, named by Senator Thompson as the man who came to him and told him about the slush fund, was on the witness stand again to-day. He caused considerable excitement when he asked leave to correct a statement made by him yesterday, to the effect that Senator Thompson, when he asked Burke to help him arrange a loan of \$15,000 from John B. Stanchfield and others, wanted the money to engage in the furniture business.

Thompson Denies Shortage. "In reality," said Burke, "Thompson wanted the money to make up a shortage of funds in Lockport. He told me he was short \$15,000 in good funds in the city of Lockport, and that he was in a devil of a fix. It was about something pertaining to a school or a church, where he collected money for the sale of lands."

Senator Thompson issued to-night an absolute denial of these charges. It was reported also that Judge Samuel Burke has a witness who will identify Burke as a man who told Senator Thompson that "Stanchfield wants to see you."

Burke says that really Thompson asked for the interview with Mr. Stanchfield, Senator Alvah W. Burlingame, Jr., chairman of the Judiciary Committee, said this afternoon that Judge Samuel Beardsley, counsel for the Consolidated Gas Company, probably would be called as the witness, and that an effort would be made to learn when the testimony of John B. Stanchfield could be taken in New York.

## FILIBUSTER WINS, BUT GOES TO ASHES

Assembly Caucus of Republi-  
cans Upsets Democratic  
Victory in Senate.

### Special Despatch to THE SUN.

ALBANY, April 15.—Democrats and insurgent Republicans, after winning their nineteenth hour filibuster battle in the Senate, had that victory turn to ashes this afternoon when the tried and true Republican caucus in the Assembly mustered eighty-two votes, six more than needed, irrevocably against the passage of the social welfare legislation of the Democrats.

This means that adjournment of the Legislature will surely come by the end of the week, after the Democrats and insurgents have forced the Republicans to a record vote against the doomed compulsory health insurance, eight hours day for women, minimum wage for women and minors, municipal ownership and State hydroelectric development bills.

At 11 o'clock this morning Senator Walters admitted himself beaten by the all night speaking of the Democrats and Senators Davenport of Oneida, G. F. Thompson of Niagara, Graves of Erie and Fowler of Chautauque. He yielded to the Democratic leader, Senator Foley, and the adjournment day of the Senate, and of the Legislature, was in the hands of the insurgents.

The Assembly caucus met soon after this, however, while the Senate dragged on its weary session begun at 9 the night before. While the Senate was clearing its calendar Speaker Sweet mustered his Republican Assemblymen, and though ten of them bolted the caucus during the course of the afternoon, declaring their intention to vote for the minimum wage and eight hour bills, plenty of votes remained out of the ninety-four Republicans in the lower house. When the caucus adjourned after 8 this evening eighty-two were pledged to the death of the "socialistic Democratic legislation."

Speaker Sweet later issued a statement in which he declared that the action of the caucus had been taken to protect the industries of the State. "The alliance with Tammany Democrats of four Senators elected to represent the traditions and promote the principles of the Republican party," the statement read, "resulting in the passage of the Democratic programme in the Senate makes it necessary for the Republican members of the Assembly

to stand together in defence of these principles which protect the right of property and the freedom of action of the individual."

The statement then bitterly attacks the Democratic programme, calling them "the Bolshevik four." He declared that if this sort of legislation—"based on a fallacy at the root that it is easy to help the common people and that nobody needs"—is kept up the State budget will soon pass the \$100,000,000 a year mark.

"That," he said, "will mean an income tax of 10 per cent. falling on those who are least able to pay."

Among the fifty measures approved and sent to the Assembly was the Foley bill, providing for reorganization of the New York Public Service Commission into a single headed commission and giving Gov. Smith power to name this man. There was no roll call on the measure, but later Senator Thompson, chairman of the Public Service Committee, asked to be recorded against it. He favors, one Commissioner for the whole State.

DID NOT SEE CHAMBERLAIN. Aero Commanders Unaware of American's Exploit.

PARIS, April 15.—Two of the nine aerial squadron commanders then at Touquin, France, testified to-day at the court-martial of Capt. E. G. Chamberlain of San Antonio, Tex., charged with having made false reports of aerial exploits on the British front last summer, that they had not seen Chamberlain July 27, when he is said to have arrived in camp, or July 28, the day of the alleged exploit.

One of the witnesses, Capt. Le Blanc Smith, said he knew that unofficial flights had been made at Touquin, an American officer taking one in July. Another witness, Mayor Hell, was shown a piece of airplane canvas found near where Chamberlain says he landed with a damaged plane. Major Bell said the canvas probably came from a French or American machine.

## ASSEMBLY PASSES SLACER MOVIE BILL

Measure to Create Board of  
Censorship Approved by  
Vote of 77 to 57.

### Special Despatch to THE SUN.

ALBANY, April 15.—The Assembly passed the Slacer movie censorship bill to-day by a vote of 77 to 57. Prior to the roll-call on the original question, a motion to recommit was defeated 53 to 26.

Assemblyman John W. Slacer of Buffalo, introducer of the measure, said it is necessary to give the State control of the films that are being exhibited because some are of such a character that their display should be prohibited. Mr. Slacer declared the bill is in the interests of the producers and exhibitors of clean movies quite as much as for the public benefit.

Speakers who opposed the passage of the censorship bill contended that the movie men themselves are driving those who do not show decent films out of the business, and that the creation of the censorship board by the bill would hamper the business.

The State Board of Regents is to have the power to appoint the Board which would have to pass on the films to be exhibited in the State before they could be shown.

After once having refused to approve the Wheeler-Knight bill, amending the highway law in relation to operation of motor vehicles in New York City, the Senate passed it to-day by a vote of 28 to 15.

The purpose of the bill, which had the strong backing of Secretary of State Hueso, is to lessen the number of motor car accidents in New York City. It provides for raising the license fee for car operators from \$1 to \$2 and requires that they pass an examination.

The license bill, creating the Greater New York Department of Ferries, passed in the lower house as did the bill, amending penal law, and making it a misdemeanor to display the red flag in any public assembly or parade as a symbol of any organization or in furtherance of any political, social or economic principle, doctrine or propaganda. Both measures have been approved by the Senate and now go to the Governor.

The Peck bill, placing water companies under the jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission, was passed by the Assembly after it was amended to include New York City.

## HYLAN ASKS SENATE TO KILL FARES BILL

Tells Legislators People Are  
Tired of "Shontses."

### Special Despatch to THE SUN.

ALBANY, April 15.—The Assembly declared that the city wants to be free from the grasp of transit manipulation and to have municipal ownership and operation. Mayor Hylan wrote to the members of the State Senate last night urging them not to pass the Carleton-Martin bill, which would place the fixing of fares in the hands of the Public Service Commission. The Mayor said:

"The millions of residents of this city protest against the passage of the notorious seven cent fare bill, or any bill that takes from the elected city officials and gives to the Public Service Commission the right to raise the fares on the transit lines."

"The Public Service Commission's conduct in the past has not been in the interest of the city, and they have no hope of relief from this body, which is controlled by the transit lines. The city owns the subway lines and the Interborough has a lease for forty-nine years. If the Interborough is unable to make a profit at a five cent fare then they can turn the lines back to the city and the city will operate them."

"The people of the city want municipal ownership and operation and to be free from the Shontses and transit manipulators and the rest of the moneybund crowd. Thousands who ride on the transit lines were amazed when this bill passed the Assembly. The people of Brooklyn will not soon forget the action of Assemblymen Charles C. Johnson and Wilfred Earl Youker (the representative of the Citizens Union)

Kings county), who voted in favor of the seven cent fare bill. "The city should be free from the grasp of these transit manipulators. I hope you will give this your earnest consideration."

### HILLES MADE PRESIDENT.

Republican Club to Become National Organization.

Charles D. Hilles, former chairman of the Republican National Committee, was chosen president of the Republican Club, succeeding William F. Bonyaga at the annual meeting last night. Other officers chosen were: Herbert L. Battersby, first vice-president; Judge W. M. K. Groot, second vice-president; H. H. Curren, third vice-president; Taylor More, treasurer; Benjamin F. Day, corresponding secretary and Oscar W. Ehrhorn, recording secretary.

The election of Mr. Hilles, who has a nationwide acquaintance among Republicans, is preliminary to carrying out a suggestion that the name of the organization be changed to the National Republican Club and an active campaign be made for membership from every State.

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## KELLOGG NAMED FOR \$15,000 STATE POST

Smith Nominates His Counsel  
as P. S. Commissioner.

### Special Despatch to THE SUN.

ALBANY, April 15.—Gov. Smith transmitted to-day to the Senate the name of Joseph A. Kellogg of Glens Falls, as member of the Second district Public Service Commission, to succeed Deputy Attorney-General Jerome I. Cheney, whose term of office expired February 1.

The Governor also submitted the name of George A. Blauvelt, former State Senator, as member of the board of trustees of Cornell University, to succeed former Gov. John A. Dix, who now is head of the claims bureau of the State Department of Public Works.

Mr. Kellogg managed Gov. Smith's campaign and was acting chairman of the Democratic State committee from the time 1908 to 1912. He resigned in 1911, and was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1912. He was admitted to practice law in 1912.

Mr. Kellogg is a graduate of Columbia Law School, was admitted to the bar in 1886 and since then has practiced law. He was assistant to Attorney-General Simon W. Rosendale in 1892 and 1893, and first Deputy Attorney-General from 1911 to 1914. He was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1912, succeeding Justice Edgar A. Spencer, deceased.

Mr. Blauvelt as a member of the Legislature was active in educational affairs. He is a graduate of Cornell and the Columbia Law School, class of 1890. He was admitted to practice law in 1892.

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